

# SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

## Department of Justice

### Litigation Outsourcing

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Public Safety Subcommittee

Carrier: Senator Campos

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On April 17th, the Public Safety Subcommittee received a report from the Oregon Department of Justice on litigation outsourcing.

The Department was directed under SB 5514 in the 2023 session to report to the 2025 Legislature on the outcome, by client agency, case-type, and estimated savings from reduced outsourcing of legal costs by private law firms due to additional investments in the Civil Litigation and Special Litigation sections of the Trail Division.

The Department reports that the utilization of new positions saved \$532,000 but was unable to specify the savings by case-type or client agency due to IT system limitations and the way casework is assigned. At the time of the report, the legal rate charged to agencies was \$275 per hour versus an outsourced rate of \$400 per hour. Savings had been anticipated to be higher, but overall caseloads did not return to anticipated pre-pandemic levels. So, while savings were realized, the growth of outsourcing continued.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.